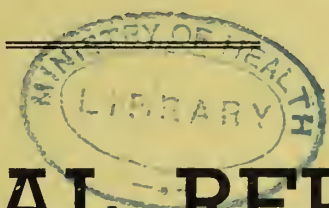


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KEMPSTON
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND OF THE
SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR
1950

M. J. PLEYDELL, M.C., M.D., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

C. A. L. SETCHELL, A.M.I.S.E., M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,
Sanitary Inspector.

To the Chairman and Members of the Kempston Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the annual report upon the health, vital statistics and sanitary conditions of the Bedford Rural District for the year 1950.

The statistics indicate that during the year there has been a slight increase in the population. The birth rate, death rate and infant mortality rate compare favourably with the corresponding rates for England and Wales, and it is satisfactory to note that there were no maternal deaths during the year.

With regard to infectious disease: measles was again prevalent during the year, and there was an increase in the number of cases of whooping cough. Fortunately, in both infections the majority of cases occurred in the older age groups of children, a factor which lessens the risk of pulmonary complications. Scarlet fever continued over from the previous year, but only a few cases were notified after the first quarter of the year. Three cases of poliomyelitis were notified towards the end of the year.

One of the problems of public health today is the role of the aged in modern society. The 1951 Census will enable an exact computation of age groups to be made, but a national assessment shows that there is approximately one person over 65 for every six persons of the 15-65 year age group, and it is estimated that in the next quarter of a century this proportion will increase to one to four or even one to three. This is of considerable importance; for although hospital services for old people are provided by the regional hospital board, while the domiciliary help afforded by the nursing services and home-help scheme comes within the ambit of the County Council, yet their housing requirements remain the concern of the local authority.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the officials of the District Council and the staff for their help and co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

M. J. PLEYDELL,

Medical Officer of Health.

17th October, 1951.

KEMPSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR 1950

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

<i>Medical Officer of Health</i>	M. J. PLEYDELL, M.C., M.D., D.P.H.
<i>Surveyor, Chief Sanitary Inspector and Water Engineer</i>	C. A. L. SETCHELL, A.M.I.S.E., M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Cert.S.I.B., Cert. Meat Inspection.
<i>Additional Sanitary Inspector and Assistant Building Surveyor</i>	F. E. CASEMORE, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Cert.S.I.B.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,302
Population, Census for 1931	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,488
Registrar General's estimate of mid-year population, 1950	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,228
Number of Inhabited Houses (at end of 1950) according to the Rate Book	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,440
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£36,343
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£140

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The majority of employed people work in Bedford, or at Brick Works south of Kempston. A considerable number of men and girls are employed at Engineering Works in Bedford.

Apart from the Electric Lamp Works, the remainder in Kempston are small concerns comprising a Shoe Factory, Leather Works, Iron Foundry Works, Pattern Makers, Engineering Works, Crayon Works, Cardboard Box Factory, Tin Works and Metal Hose Works.

Social conditions are dominated by the housing shortage, with the consequence that many families are sharing houses and living in rooms often quite unsuitable. Although the Council are erecting houses as quickly as present restrictions and labour shortages will allow, no end at present can be seen to this problem.

STATISTICS.

				<i>Total</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	
Live Births	{	Legitimate	...	112	55	57	Birth Rate 12·6 per 1,000 of the estimated population
		Illegitimate	...	4	1	3	
		Total	...	<u>116</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>60</u>	

The corresponding figure for England and Wales is 15·8 per total population.

				<i>Total</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>		
Still Births	{	Legitimate	2	1	1	} Still Birth Rate 25·2 per 1,000 births (live and still) which com- pares with a still- birth rate of 22·6 for England and Wales
		Illegitimate	...	...	1	—	1
					—	—	—	
					3	1	2	
					=	=	=	

giving a crude death rate of 9.1 per 1,000 of the resident population. Adjusted death rate is 9.6. The corresponding figure for England and Wales is 11.6 per 1,000 total population.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

There were no maternal deaths during the year. The maternal mortality rate for England and Wales is 0.86 per 1,000 live and still births.

INFANTILE MORTALITY

				Total	M.	F.
Deaths of Infants under one year—legitimate	...	...	...	1	1	—
illegitimate	...	...	...	1	—	1

Infant mortality rate:—17·2 per 1,000 live births.

Infant mortality rate for England and Wales is 30 per 1,000 live births

CAUSES OF DEATHS								M.	F.
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
2	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
3	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
4	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
5	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
6	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
7	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
8	Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	2
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
16	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	7
18	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	5
19	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
20	Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	5
21	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
22	Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
23	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	—
24	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
31	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
32	Other defined and ill defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	6
33	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
34	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	2
35	Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
36	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Total								45	39

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The Laboratory of the Public Health Laboratory Service is situated in the Department of Pathology, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

This Service is under the direction of the Medical Research Council acting for the Ministry of Health and is free of charge to the local authority.

One of the main functions of this Service is to co-operate with General Practitioners and Medical Officers of Health in the diagnosis, prevention, and control of infectious diseases. For these purposes the laboratory will undertake the examination of material, e.g., throat swabs, sputa, faeces, urine and blood from any patient suspected to be suffering from a communicable infection, or of being a carrier. All General Practitioners in the district have been acquainted of these facilities.

2. AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The Service provided by the Bedfordshire County Council has satisfactorily met the increasing demands that are occurring. It covers the full twenty-four hours, and is free of charge.

In addition to moving emergency cases, ambulance or sitting case car transport is available for carrying patients unable to travel by other means to and from Hospitals and Clinics, at which attendance is necessary for the purpose of receiving medical treatment.

Except in the case of an emergency, the request for an ambulance must be made by a Medical Practitioner or other authorised person. This should be to the nearest depot.

Out-patients of Hospitals using public transport are reimbursed their travelling expenses by the Hospital Authorities.

The service now also covers the removal to isolation hospitals of patients suffering from infectious disease.

Depots are situated as follows:—

BEDFORD

Newnham Avenue

Telephone

Bedford 4875

AMPTHILL

Claridges Lane

Ampthill 2187

BIGGLESWADE

Crab Lane

Biggleswade 2295

	<i>Telephone</i>
DUNSTABLE High Street North	Dunstable 76
LUTON 42 Church Street	Luton 4600
LINSLADE Linslade, Leighton Buzzard and Wing Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade Headquarters, 10 New Road, Linslade.	Leighton Buzzard 3332
RUSHDEN Rushden and District Motor Ambulance Association, Mr. C. C. Woods, 3 Purvis Road.	Rushden 403

3. DOMICILIARY NURSING AND MIDWIFERY SERVICE.

The County Council is responsible under the National Health Service Act, 1946, for the provision of these Services and employs the nurses and midwives in the district. Direct administration is by the Northern Divisional Health Committee.

The nurses employed are:—

Nurse M. Clark*†

Nurse M. Minards*†

†S.C.M. (State Certified Midwife)

*S.E.A.N. (State Enrolled Assistant Nurse)

4. CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

These are undertaken by the County Council.

Infant Welfare Clinic:—Is held at the Kempston Methodist Schoolroom (Foster Road), on every Friday, at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

The Ante-Natal Clinic:—Is held also at the Methodist Schoolroom, on alternate Wednesdays, at 10 a.m.

<i>Venereal Disease Clinic</i> :	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>
Bedford County Hospital ... (Amphill Road Entrance)	Monday to Friday (inclusive) 4–8 p.m.	Monday, Tuesday, 6 p.m. Wednesday, 5–7 p.m. Thursday, 6 p.m. Friday, 3–5 p.m.
Medical Officer in attendance:	Mondays, 5–6.30 p.m. Fridays, 2.30–5.30 p.m.	Wednesdays, 5–7.30 p.m.

Chest Clinic:—

The Chest Clinic is situated in Bedford General Hospital, North Wing, Kimbolton Road, Bedford. The Physician in Charge is of consultant status and is in daily attendance. Patients are seen by appointment only, except in the case of emergency.

For consultation in special cases, at the discretion of the Physician in Charge, Dr Lee Lander, Consultant Physician, Brompton Hospital, visits the area for one session each fortnight.

The hours of the Clinic are as follows:—

Monday, 2 p.m.–3.30 p.m.	...	...	...	Pneumothorax refills
Monday, 6 p.m.–7 p.m.	...	...	...	Pneumothorax refills (workers)
Tuesday morning and afternoon	...	...	...	Women and Children
Wednesday morning and afternoon	...	...	...	Contacts (both sexes)
Thursday morning and afternoon	...	...	...	Men
Friday, 9 a.m.–11 a.m.	...	...	...	Pneumothorax refills

5. HOSPITALS

The district is served by the Bedford General Hospital (North and South Wings). These hospitals are controlled by the Bedford Group Hospital Management Committee.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

ADOPTIVE ACTS.

Public Health, 1890.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, Sections 61 and 67.

Notification of Births Act, 1907.

Private Street Works Act, 1892.

BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

Prevention of Nuisances.

Cleansing of Footways.

New Street and Buildings.

Dairies, Cowsheds, Milkshops, etc.

Slaughter Houses.

Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food.

SCHOOLS.

There are three schools in the District:—

1. KEMPSTON SECONDARY MODERN SCHOOL.

The average number of pupils on the roll is 340 and the average attendance 310. The sanitary accommodation is as follows:—

Girls	...	...	...	7 W.Cs. and 9 washbasins.
Boys	...	...	...	8 W.Cs. (shared with Juniors from Primary School); 2 urinals and 11 washbasins.

2. BEDFORD ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL.

The average number of pupils on the roll is 282 and the average attendance 259. The sanitary accommodation is as follows:—

Girls	...	...	...	7 W.Cs. (Infants and Juniors).
Boys	...	...	...	2 W.Cs. and urinal (Juniors share Modern School Urinal).

There are 9 washbasins.

3. THE UP END PRIMARY SCHOOL.

The average number of pupils on the roll is 374 and the average attendance is 323. The sanitary accommodation is as follows:—

Girls	...	...	...	5 W.Cs. (Junior). 3 W.Cs. (Infants).
Boys	...	...	...	2 W.Cs. and 1 urinal (Junior). 2 W.Cs. (Infants).

Each of the schools has a main water supply. School dinners are provided in canteens situated at the Kempston Secondary Modern School and in Farrer Street.

An increase in sanitary accommodation is required to achieve the prescribed standards.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. WATER SUPPLY.

The District's water comes mainly from a greensand source and is purchased in bulk from the Biggleswade Water Board, but the supply to the Ampthill Road area is obtained from the Bedford Corporation.

At the present time, with the exception of four cottages situated on the extreme outskirts, water is supplied by the Council's mains directly to every dwelling house in the area.

Complaints of taste and smell from residents in Halsey Road, where a new cast iron water main had been laid, were investigated and samples from the house services examined. The Analyst reported that contact with new metallic piping was the cause of the trouble and would gradually disappear, the water being quite fit for drinking purposes.

In October, following receipt of information that samples of the water supplied to the Cardington Air Works had been found to be unsatisfactory, regular weekly sampling from the Council's supply mains was undertaken. The reports on all samples examined showed that the water supply was perfectly satisfactory and indicated that the fault was with the storage tanks at the Works which were subsequently cleaned out. As an added precaution the chlorine dosage at the Moxhill reservoir was slightly increased.

There are a few private wells in existence, the water from which is mainly used for horticultural purposes.

There are 84 consumer meters in use in the District.

The water consumption figures for the year are given in the following table:—

							Gallons
Kempston Urban District	...	...	...	...	...	...	96,843,000
Elstow	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,413,300
Cardington	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,151,000
R.A.W.	...	...	...	...	...	...	58,984,000
Total							160,391,000

Cold water taps are re-washed free of charge by the Council and during the year 28 received attention.

2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Apart from the following premises which are situated in the out-parts of the District, all dwelling houses are connected to the sewers:—

Situation							No. of Premises	Sanitary Arrangements
Sailor's Bridge	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	Pail Closets
Mill Cottage	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	„
Kempston Mill	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	Chemical Closets
Bury Cottages	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	Pail Closets
Hoo Lodge	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	Cesspool
The Mill House	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	„
The Manor	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	„
Manor Cottage	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	„
The Manor Cottages	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	„
Kempston Grange	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	„
Grange Cottages	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	„
The Bury	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	„
32, Elstow Road	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	„

In consequence of the severe storm experienced by the District on Sunday the 21st of May, the Bell End Sewage Pumping Station into which all the sewage from the east part of the area flows, was flooded, and the pumps, electric motors and equipment submerged. It was three days before the pump house could be pumped clear and three weeks before the station was restored to proper working order, during which time emergency petrol pumps manned by your staff were in use day and night. Fortunately, the emergency arrangements made in anticipation of a pumping breakdown worked admirably; and the fact that no complaints of any kind were received from the population affected, whose willing co-operation eased the difficult task of dealing with a continual flow of sewage, reflects the greatest credit to the Council's staff who worked unceasingly and untiringly in order to restore things to normal as quickly as possible. All electrical and pumping equipment had to be stripped down and thoroughly overhauled before being brought back into use, and your Surveyor was subsequently authorised to carry out flood prevention work at the pumping station.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS

The complete scheme for the remodelling and enlargement of the Works, which was the subject of Ministerial Enquiry in 1946 still remains in abeyance.

3. RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No complaints have been received of river or stream pollution during the year, and no action has been necessary.

4. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

With the exception of seven houses in the outlying parts of the district which have pail or chemical closets all houses have water closets.

5. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

There are no ash-pits or privies in the area. Pail closets are emptied weekly by the Council's men with tank carts, and contents discharged at the sewerage outfall.

The weekly collection of refuse and salvage in one operation from all premises has been continued by a Battery driven Refuse Collector, drawing a trailer. Approximately 1,508 tons of house refuse was disposed of during the year.

The following table shows the quantities of salvage sold during the year:—

							<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>
Waste Paper. Books, Cardboard	...	...	...	...	...	...	16	16½
Scrap Iron and Tins	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	7¼
Non-ferrous Metals	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	3¼
Textiles	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	10¼
Bones	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0½
Bottles and Jars	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	5¼
Manure	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	0
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
Total							22	3

Revenue from sale of Salvage during the year amounted to £94 13s. 1½d.

The emptying of street gullies and street scavenging has been carried out whenever labour was available.

6. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following table shows the number of inspections made during the year, for all purposes:—

Dwelling-houses inspected and Recorded under the Housing Acts Regulations							Nil
Ordinary Inspections for housing defects	...	...	...	...	...	...	84
Sanitary routine inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	197

Inspection of Slaughterhouses and Foodstuffs	...	...	...	...	...	63
Visits and revisits to Council Property relating to reported defects and repairs of same	...	...	...	...	...	420
Inspection of Factories and Workshops, including Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	32
Inspection of Cow-sheds and Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	11
Inspection of Petroleum Stores	...	...	...	...	...	8
Visits re Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	31
Rooms disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	24
Inspections under Shops Act	...	...	...	...	...	14
Drainage Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	172
Drain Tests	...	...	...	...	...	94
Caravans	...	...	...	...	...	26
Other Miscellaneous visits	...	...	...	...	...	119
Water Services	...	...	...	...	...	32
Building Bye-laws	...	...	...	...	...	548

7. SHOPS AND OFFICES.

No action with regard to shops and offices was found necessary.

8. SMOKE ABATEMENT.

There were no factory chimneys in the district which required attention during the year.

9. SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no privately owned or other swimming baths open to the public in the District.

10. ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

During the year under review 5 houses were found to be infested with bugs.

These were disinfested and two separate methods have been put into operation as follows:—

- (1) Skirting boards and architraves pulled away from walls in all rooms, all floor covering removed and destroyed. Holes bored in ceilings of all rooms. All windows, doors and chimney openings sealed and disinfested by High Concentration of Gas (Cescones).
- (2) Procedure as above, but no openings sealed, and disinfested with a liquid fumigant (Zaldecide), in the form of a spray pressure driven, behind all skirting boards, architraves, picture rails and all other likely places.
- (3) Periodic revisiting is carried out and process repeated where found necessary.

11. PUBLIC MORTUARY.

During the year 13 bodies were received into the mortuary, which by arrangement is available for use by the neighbouring Authorities of Bedford and Ampthill Rural District Councils.

HOUSING.

The following table shows the number of houses completed for occupation since the end of the second world war:—

<i>Year</i>			<i>By Kempston U.D.C.</i>	<i>By other Authorities</i>	<i>By Private Enterprise</i>	<i>Total</i>
1946	...	...	20	—	24	44
1947	...	...	29	—	6	35
1948	...	...	67	—	1	68
1949	...	...	24	—	8	32
1950	...	...	30	18	2	50
TOTALS	...	...	170	18	41	229

At the end of the year six additional houses for the Bedfordshire Standing Joint Committee, two for private enterprise and thirty-two for the Urban District Council were under construction. Plans were in hand for a further extension of the Council's housing estates by over $7\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land allowing for the erection of another sixty-two traditional houses and eight old people's dwellings.

APPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL HOUSES.

At the end of the year there were 754 names of applicants for houses on the Register, but a subsequent revision reduced the total of applicants still to be satisfied to 450. Details of these are as follows:—

Residing but not working in Kempston	...	...	...	204
Residing and working in Kempston	...	...	...	92
Working but not residing in Kempston	...	...	...	31
Not working or residing in Kempston	...	...	...	123

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

- | | | | |
|-----|-----|---|-----|
| (1) | (a) | Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 47 |
| | (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose | 47 |
| (2) | (a) | Number of dwelling houses (included under the sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 | Nil |
| | (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose | Nil |
| (3) | | Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | Nil |
| (4) | | Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | 36 |

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 40

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

- | | | |
|---|--------|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | ... .. | Nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit at service of formal notices:— | | |
| (a) By owners | ... .. | Nil |
| (b) By local authority in default of owners | ... .. | Nil |

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

- | | | |
|--|--------|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | ... .. | 1 |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:— | | |
| (a) By owners | ... .. | 1 |
| (b) By local authority in default of owners | ... .. | Nil |

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

- | | | |
|---|--------|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | ... .. | Nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | ... .. | Nil |

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

- | | | |
|--|--------|-----|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | ... .. | Nil |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit | ... .. | Nil |

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936—PART IV—OVERCROWDING.

Due to lack of alternative accommodation no action has been taken under this Part, although records of known cases are maintained, and fresh cases are continually being discovered.

PLANS SUBMITTED AND DEALT WITH DURING YEAR.

Dwelling houses:—

(a) Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
(b) Police	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
(c) Private Enterprise	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Private Garages	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Outbuildings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Extensions or alterations to existing buildings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Industrial and Business Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Building Sites	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

There are 7 registered dairy premises in the district to which 11 visits were made. The 1949 Milk Regulations now places the responsibility for the supervision of cowsheds on to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries with whose local officers close liaison is maintained.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The slaughtering of food animals in this area was discontinued on the 15th of January, 1940, under the Livestock (Restriction on Slaughtering) Order, 1940.

Two Slaughter Houses are licensed in this area but have only been used during the period under review for the slaughter of pigs belonging to "self suppliers" from areas outside the radius specified, for a Government Slaughter House.

Shops, vehicles and places where food is prepared have been duly inspected and found to be generally satisfactory.

Voluntary surrender of the undermentioned foodstuffs found to be unfit for human consumption has been made:—

Imported and Home Killed Meat	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	174 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Sausages	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2 lbs.
Canned Meats	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11 lbs.
„ Vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
„ Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9 lbs.
Eggs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	225
Dried Peas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13 lbs.
Fresh Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	157 lbs.
Canned Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2 lbs.
Margarine	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	108 lbs.
Butter	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40 lbs.
Tea	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12 lbs.
Sweets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20 lbs.
Sugar	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	60 lbs.
Bacon	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16 lbs.

CLEAN FOOD BYELAWS.

Byelaws relating to the handling, wrapping, and delivery of food and sale of food in the open air, based on the Model issued by the Ministry of Food, were made by the Council under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 and came into operation on the 15th August 1950. Copies of the new Byelaws were supplied to all food handlers in the District and this was followed up by visits by officers of the department. It is encouraging to report that all persons concerned indicated in a practical way their fullest co-operation to promote the highest degree of hygienic handling of all foodstuffs intended for human consumption. Where necessary the installation of such things as staff washing facilities and wash-ups for food utensils and apparatus has been carried out without undue delay, and so far it has not been found necessary to take formal action under the Byelaws.

CLEAN FOOD EXHIBITION.

The assistance of your Officers was made available in connection with the Clean Food Exhibition organised by the Borough of Bedford Health Department and the Bedfordshire County Council in October. The exhibition and lectures in connection therewith were well attended by persons engaged in the handling of food from the Urban District.

ICE CREAM.

Eighteen premises are registered for the sale of ice cream and five for its manufacture in the District. During the year, however, only at two premises was ice cream actually manufactured and in each case the complete cold mix process was operated. Frequent visits have been made to these premises and the requirements of the Heat Treatment Regulations were fully explained and found to be observed.

Apart from those who manufacture their own ice cream, the dealers in the District obtain their supplies of the pre-packed commodity from the large reputable wholesalers.

DISINFECTION.

Fumigation of rooms has been carried out as follows, by a dilute spray of Formalin and by Formaldehyde Gas.

After Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	18
After Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	1
Other causes	...	...	...	...	5

An inspection of the house and sanitary arrangements is also made in each case, and notice served to make good any defect that may be found.

With the de-rationing of soap in September, the Council decided to resume the free issue of carbolie soap to occupiers of premises where cases of infectious diseases had occurred.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

In consequence of the coming into operation of this Act which places upon the Local Authority the duty to insure that as far as practicable its area is kept free from rats and mice, the Council decided in October to appoint a permanent rodent operator who attended a course of instruction arranged by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. His

primary duty has consisted of making a survey of the Urban District in order to ascertain where and to what degree infestations of rats and mice exist, and the following table indicates the work carried out to the end of the year.

	No. of properties inspected	No. of inspections made	No. of Notices served under Sec. 4		Number of treatments carried out			
					By arrangement with Occupier		Under Sec. 5 (1)	
			Treatments	Works	Rats	Mice only	Rats	Mice only
Local Authority's Property ...	3	5	—	—	1	—	—	—
Dwelling House	46	51	—	—	20	—	—	—
Business Premises	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Agricultural Property ...	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	52	59	—	—	22	—	—	—

CIVIL BUILDING CONTROL.

In August, 1945, local authorities were requested to undertake the licensing of building work, within certain limits, under Defence Regulation 56A, also the granting of licences for private builders to erect small houses. The following table shows the Building Licences issued during the year under review:—

Number of Licences granted for the repair, etc., of—

Dwelling houses	6
Value	£1,427

Number of Licences granted for the erection of—

New Dwellings for Sale or Owner Occupation	3
Value	£3,473

Further representations with regard to inadequate qualified staff were made during the early part of year and, following the support of the County Medical Officer of Health in the matter, sanction for the appointment of an additional Sanitary Inspector was received from the Ministry in July. Mr. Casemore commenced his duties on the 1st of September, and during the closing months of the year carried out considerable routine inspection work particularly in respect of food premises, shops, factories and housing. The fact that a Sanitary Officer is now available to perform day to day visitations in the District will help in time to bring about the necessary improvements and high standard of hygiene which is so desirable but which unfortunately it has hitherto been impossible to achieve.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

ISOLATION HOSPITALS.

Cases of infectious disease are sent either to the Steppingley or to the Spittlesea Isolation Hospital.

The present policy of the North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board, which is now the authority for the admission to hospital of patients suffering from infectious disease, is that scarlet fever and measles should be admitted only where it is considered advisable due to the seriousness of the illness, or to an unsatisfactory home environment.

Measles.

95 cases were notified compared with 103 in 1949. Two thirds of these cases were notified in the second quarter, and nearly one half occurred in the 5-10 year age group. Both seasonal and age incidence were favourable, since the risk of pulmonary complications, and hence of fatalities, is less in the summer months and in the older age groups.

Erysipelas.

4 cases were notified.

Pneumonia.

9 cases were notified, 3 being admitted to hospital.

Scarlet Fever.

23 cases were notified compared with 50 in the previous year. These cases continued over from the sporadic outbreak which occurred last year, and nineteen cases were notified in the first quarter.

Whooping Cough.

34 cases occurred compared with 11 in 1949. This infection started in the summer and increased as the winter months approached. One third of the cases occurred in the five to ten year age group. The remarks made above relating to measles apply equally to whooping cough.

Jaundice.

9 cases occurred.

Poliomyelitis.

3 cases occurred, one of which was non-paralytic. All three cases were admitted to Spittlesea Isolation Hospital.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS).

	Measles	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Pneumonia	Scarlet Fever	Jaundice	Whooping Cough	Poliomyelitis	Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis
Total cases notified	95	—	4	9	23	9	34	3	—
Cases admitted to Hospital ...	—	—	—	3	—	—	2	3	—
Total Deaths	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Cases under 1 year	2	—	—	1	—	—	3	—	—
Deaths „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases from 1-2 years	8	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—
Deaths „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases from 2-3 years	13	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—
Deaths „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases from 3-4 years	16	—	—	2	5	1	5	—	—
Deaths „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases from 4-5 years	14	—	—	—	1	—	6	—	—
Deaths „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases from 5-10 years	40	—	—	1	15	3	11	—	—
Deaths „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases from 10-15 years	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	2	—
Deaths „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases from 15-20 years	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Deaths „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases from 20-35 years	2	—	—	2	—	1	—	1	—
Deaths „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases from 35-45 years	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—
Deaths „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases from 45-65 years	—	—	4	—	1	—	—	—	—
Deaths „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases 65 years and over	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths „	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS
New Cases and Mortality

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 year to 5 years ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5 years to 10 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 „ 15 „ ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 „ 20 „ ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 „ 25 „ ...	1*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 „ 35 „ ...	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 „ 45 „ ...	1+1*	2	—	—	1	1	—	—
45 „ 55 „ ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 „ 65 „ ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	4+2*	5	1	—	1	1	—	—

*Transferred from another district.

ARTIFICIAL IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

With the coming into force of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the County Council assumed responsibility for the functioning of a scheme under which facilities are available for children of all ages to obtain this important preventive treatment free of charge, either from the family doctor at his surgery, or from a medical officer at any of the Welfare Centres or schools within the County.

The following figures are presented through information supplied by Dr. G. K. Bowes, the Northern Divisional Medical Officer.

Number of children at 31st December, 1950, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e., at any time since 1st January, 1935).

Age at 31.12.50								Estimated mid-year child population, 1950		
Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	Total Under 15	Under 5	5-14	Total Under 15
5	84	89	117	88	643	515	1,541	713	1,204	1,917

These figures indicate that 53.7 per cent of the child population under 5 years of age has been immunised against diphtheria as compared with 58.9 per cent at the end of 1948. 96.2 per cent of the child population of 5-14 years has been immunised against diphtheria as compared with 90.5 per cent at the end of the previous year; while 80.4 per cent of the children under 15 years of age have been protected against diphtheria by immunisation.

CLEANSING OF VERMINOUS PERSONS

Scabies

By arrangement with the Borough of Bedford, infected persons are treated at the Borough Treatment Centre, Commercial Road, Bedford, at a cost of 10s. per treatment.

Where possible, arrangements are made for the other members of the household to attend for treatment as contacts at the same time as the infected person or persons.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

No action was necessary to be taken under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

TUBERCULOSIS

No necessity arose for any action to be taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925 (relating to persons in the Milk Trade) or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to compulsory removal to Hospital).

FACTORIES.

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

PART I OF THE ACT.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	5	7	3	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	46	40	6	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	2	2	—	—
Totals ...	53	49	9	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases")

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	2	2	—	1	—
Overcrowding(S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	1	1	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—					
(a) insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	6	6	—	2	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	9	9	—	3	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110(1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel— Making, etc. ...	2	—	—	—	—	—

